May hold up head without Northumberland.

HAST. With him, we may.

BARD. Ay, marry, there's the point;
But if without him we be thought too feeble,
My judgment is, we should not step too far[2]
Till we had his assistance by the hand:
For, in a theme so bloody-fac'd as this,
Conjecture, expectation, and surmise
Of aids uncertain, should not be admitted.

ARCH. 'Tis very true, lord Bardolph; for, indeed,
It was young Hotspur's case at Shrewsbury.

BARD. It was, my lord; who lin'd himself with hope,
Eating the air on promise of supply,
Flattering himself with project of a power
Much smaller[3] than the smallest of his thoughts:
And so, with great imagination,
Proper to madmen, led his powers to death,
And, winking, leap'd into destruction.

HAST. But, by your leave, it never yet did hurt,
To lay down likelihoods, and forms of hope.

BARD. Yes, in this present quality of war:—
Indeed the instant action[4], (a cause on foot,)

* —step too far—] The four following lines were added in the second edition. JOHNSON

3 Much smaller —] i. e which turned out to be much smaller. MUSORAVE

4 Yes, in this present quality of war; &c.] These first twenty lines were first inserted in the folio of 1623.

The first clause of this passage is evidently corrupted. All the folio editions and Mr. Howe's concur in the same reading, which Mr. Pope altered thus:

** Yes, z/*this present quality of war

[t] *Impede* the instant *act*."

This has been silently followed by Mr. Theobald, Sir Thomas Hanmer, and Dr. Warburton: but the corruption is certainly deeper; for, in the present reading Bardolph makes the incon-

venience *of hope* to be that it may cause delay when indeed the whole tenor of his argument is to recommend delay to the rest